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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 3,500 people with dwarfism
3 residing in the State of Illinois, averaging one per every
4 10,000 births, over 30,000 people in the United States, and
5 over 650,000 in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, There are over 200 distinct types of dwarfism or
7 skeletal dysplasia; the most common type of dwarfism,
8 achondroplasia, restricts the growth of the arms and legs; and

9 WHEREAS, Over 80% of people with dwarfism have
10 average-height parents, siblings, and children; and

11 WHEREAS, It is very rare to have any type of mental
12 impairment associated with dwarfism; and

13 WHEREAS, People with dwarfism contribute to the strength of
14 the economy in Illinois by being productive members of the
15 workforce, representing all careers and professions; and

16 WHEREAS, People with dwarfism are able to function as well
17 in society as average-height people and are perfectly capable
18 of riding bikes, playing sports, driving cars, traveling, and
19 having fulfilling careers and families - all with simple and
20 reasonable accommodations; and

1 WHEREAS, The preferred terminology for someone with
2 dwarfism is "short stature", "having dwarfism", "little
3 person", or "dwarf"; and

4 WHEREAS, The term "midget" is antiquated and is considered
5 offensive to most people with dwarfism; and

6 WHEREAS, The Little People of America (LPA) is the nation's
7 oldest and largest organization for people with dwarfism; the
8 organization is celebrating its 55th anniversary year in 2012
9 and is headquartered in Tustin, California; and

10 WHEREAS, LPA was founded by the late actor Billy Barty, who
11 during his over 70-year career appeared in more than 100 films
12 and television shows, and was a long time resident of Burbank,
13 California; and

14 WHEREAS, LPA is dedicated to improving the quality of life
15 for people with dwarfism throughout their lives, while
16 celebrating with great pride their contribution to social
17 diversity; and

18 WHEREAS, LPA provides support on numerous issues,
19 including parenting, adoption assistance, educational
20 scholarships, medical knowledge and access to specialists in

1 dwarfism, peer support, community outreach, and issues
2 advocacy; and

3 WHEREAS, The need and support that LPA provides to people
4 with dwarfism is demonstrated by LPA's rapid growth from 20
5 members in 1957 to more than 6,500 members in 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, LPA is the only dwarfism support organization that
7 represents all 200 forms of dwarfism and welcomes family
8 members and people with dwarfism alike; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we designate the month of October of 2012 as "Dwarfism
12 Awareness Month" in the State of Illinois in order to raise
13 public awareness about people with dwarfism and the
14 contributions of Little People of America and in recognition of
15 the organization's 55 years of service to the State of Illinois
16 and the world at large; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Little People of America as a symbol of our
19 respect and esteem.